

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TALENT). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAKING MAJORITY PARTY APPOINTMENTS—Continued

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take just a very brief moment to update our Members as to where we are in our recent discussions. We have spent most of today, while debate has been underway, continuing discussions in terms of the committee resolution. Pending on the floor is that resolution making the majority party appointments for the 108th Congress. A number of the issues have been raised, both on the floor as well as between the leaders, and we have made tremendous progress. We have, over the course of the day, resolved many of the concerns that have been raised. I believe we are very close to working out an agreement that will let us adopt the respective committee resolution—and very quickly begin work on the appropriations bill.

My hope is that over the course of this evening and in the morning, the last of these issues will have been worked through and we can achieve the objective of organizing the committees.

I will say that as a backstop, or a preventive measure, I am compelled tonight to file cloture on the resolution in the event—again, this is not anticipated at all because of the great progress that has been made—in the event that we are unable to reach an agreement on the committee resolution. Again, I am very hopeful that early tomorrow we will be ready to pass the respective party resolutions and begin the appropriations process.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. FRIST. I send a cloture motion to the desk to S. Res. 18 making majority party appointments for the 108th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. Res. 18, a resolution making majority appointments to committees.

Bill Frist, Mitch McConnell, Ted Stevens, Kay Bailey Hutchison, Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Larry E. Craig, Conrad R. Burns, Orrin Hatch, Norm Coleman, Pete Domenici, Pat Roberts, R.F. Bennett, Michael B. Enzi, George Allen, James Talent, Gordon Smith, James M. Inhofe, Richard Shelby, John W. Warner, Jim Bunning, Chuck Grassley, John Ensign, Rick Santorum, Lincoln Chafee, George V. Voinovich, Jeff

Sessions, C.S. Bond, Susan Collins, Mike DeWine, Thad Cochran, Olympia J. Snowe, John McCain, Peter Fitzgerald, Sam Brownback, Lindsey Graham, John E. Sununu, Jon Kyl, Lamar Alexander, Elizabeth Dole, John Cornyn, Craig Thomas, Judd Gregg, Don Nickles, Richard G. Lugar, Trent Lott, Wayne Allard, Lisa Murkowski, Saxby Chambliss, Arlen Specter, Chuck Hagel, Mike Crapo.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. FRIST. I yield.

Mr. REID. I say, through the Presiding Officer, to the majority leader, there have been a lot of speeches on the floor today. People said what they said. I think everything has been said, but not quite everyone has said it.

I feel good about the progress that has been made. However, I say to the majority leader, you and Senator DASCHLE are really close to being able to work something out. This is where it really gets hard. This is where you and Senator DASCHLE really have to show your leadership. I am confident that will happen. It would be good for the institution if we could get this done. We could move on, as the leader knows, to the appropriations bills which need to be done.

In spite of the threatening nature of the speeches on both sides today, tomorrow will be a better day. I am hopeful and very confident, and so is Senator DASCHLE, that we can work this out. I express to the majority leader my wishes for a productive final half yard to the goal line.

Mr. FRIST. Again, progress has been made. I appreciate the comments. I expect continuing progress to be made such that tomorrow we will have a very successful day in progressing the agenda that the American people expect.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred March 6, 2001 in Middleburg, PA. A gay man was severely beaten by two neighbors. Michael Aucker, 41, and two brothers,

Todd Justin Clinger, 20, and Troy Lee Clinger, 18, were drinking beer in a trailer when the brothers thought Aucker made a sexual advance towards them. Police said the brothers took Aucker out on the deck and stomped on him with heavy work boots. Aucker was discovered a day and a half later by another neighbor and co-worker. He was in a coma and every bone in his face and nose were broken. I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to call my colleagues' attention to a situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Last month, the parties to the bloody conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed an accord intended to end the country's 4-year civil war. But central Africans may not have much reason to celebrate yet, because unless this step is accompanied by meaningful new initiatives, the agreement promises little change from the insecurity and repression that have killed millions of their countrymen and dominated their lives throughout the conflict.

As the outgoing chairman and incoming ranking Democratic member of the Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs, I have monitored events in the Congo in recent years, and I must share some of this skepticism. The international community has been eager to certify a withdrawal of foreign forces so that it could move the Congo file out of the international crisis bin and into the overstuffed stack of civil collapses. Consequently, the world has demanded very little of the signatories to this new accord. Meanwhile, the demands of the Congolese people appear to have not been taken into account at all.

The agreement provides for Joseph Kabila, who was installed as President in Kinshasa after his father's assassination, to remain in the Presidency, and establishes four Vice-Presidential positions to accommodate his own party, the two major armed rebel groups, and the unarmed political opposition. But neither the President nor this bevy of Vice-Presidents can boast of any real political legitimacy, and thus far plans to ensure an eventual democratic transition have a feeble, wishful quality that suggests no one takes them terribly seriously.

Intercommunal tensions in Eastern Congo continue to simmer violently in the context of atrocious governance, but this is treated as an extraneous and inconvenient detail. Violence continues to rage in the Ituri region, displacing tens of thousands, it is clear,